

cont B1 1) 4. The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ wherein the mechanism for removably securing the housing over the pin connector comprises an aperture for engaging a structure on the circuit board.

B2 5 6. The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ further comprising a mechanism to enable removal of the housing from around the pin connector.

B3 8 9. The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ wherein the housing is formed of a semi-rigid material.

B4 12. An apparatus for protecting one or more pin connectors on a circuit board comprising:
(a) a housing defining an interior cavity sized to surround at least one pin connector;
(b) a mechanism for removably securing the housing over the pin connector;
and
(c) an aperture extending through the housing and isolated from the interior cavity.

B5 14. An apparatus for protecting one or more electrical pin connectors on a circuit board comprising:
(a) a housing means for defining an interior cavity and for receiving at least one pin connector;
(b) a mechanism for removably securing the housing means over the pin connector;
(c) a mechanism for aligning the interior cavity of the housing means with the pin connector; and
(d) an aperture extending through the housing means and isolated from the interior cavity.

~~19~~¹⁸. In a computer system having a circuit board and one or more electrical pin connectors affixed thereon, a method for preventing damage or contamination of the pin connector comprising:

B6 (a) providing a protective cover having a housing with an interior cavity defined therein, an aperture extending through the housing and isolated from the interior cavity, and mechanisms for aligning the protective cover with features of the circuit board and for removably securing the protective cover over the pin connector;

(b) aligning the protective cover with features on one of the circuit board and pin connector; and

(c) removably securing the protective cover adjacent the circuit board so that the pin connector is disposed within the interior cavity of the protective cover.

B7 ~~4~~²¹. The apparatus of claim ~~12~~¹ in combination with a pin connector disposed within the interior cavity of the housing.

~~18~~²². The apparatus of claim ~~14~~¹⁴ in combination with a pin connector disposed within the interior cavity of the housing means.